

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A regime for determining whether or not a sample of skin or of a skin equivalent contains such amount of a papillary fibroblast population as to be considered a normal skin, comprising labelling said skin or skin equivalent with at least one antibody specific for papillary fibroblasts and evaluating the extent of such labelling as a marker for skin or skin equivalent quality.
2. The determinative regime as defined by Claim 1, said at least one antibody comprising a monoclonal antibody.
3. The determinative regime as defined by Claim 1, said at least one antibody comprising a horse, goat, mouse, rat or rabbit antibody.
4. The determinative regime as defined by Claim 3, said at least one antibody comprising a mouse antibody.
5. The determinative regime as defined by Claim 1, said at least one antibody comprising the PG4 antibody.
6. The determinative regime as defined by Claim 1, comprising immunolabelling said skin or skin equivalent with at least one antibody specific for papillary fibroblasts.
7. A regime for determining the presence of papillary fibroblasts in a given sample, comprising labelling said sample with at least one antibody specific for papillary fibroblasts and evaluating the intensity of any such labelling as a marker for the presence of said papillary fibroblasts.

8. The determinative regime as defined by Claim 7, said at least one antibody comprising the PG4 monoclonal antibody.